

West Wazee Street Warehouse District
Colorado Casket Company
1213-1221 Wazee Street
Denver
Denver County
Colorado

HABS No. CO-70 E

HABS
COLO,
16-DENV,
16E-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS COLO, 16-DENV, 1
ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Colorado	COUNTY Denver	TOWN OR VICINITY Denver
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Colorado Casket Company (Denver Directory 1902)		HABS NO. CO-70 E
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE 1213 - 1221 Wazee Street		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 1213 - 1221 Wazee Street, Denver, Colorado 80204		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1898 (Commercial-Industrial Appraisal; City & County of Denver)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The building was constructed in 1898 by the Colorado Casket Company, manufacturers of "High Class Funeral Furnishings". Under the ownership of the Colorado Casket Company the first floor of the structure was used as a casket showroom while the upper story levels housed an embalming school. The building was purchased in 1950 by Richard (cont.)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Commercial Vernacular with Romanesque Revival detailing.		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Load bearing masonry (brick) with interior wood framing		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular; Overall dimensions: 66' x 131.8'		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The first story of the four story commercial structure is defined by coursed brick laid to simulate coursed stone. Paired, round arch windows occupy the southwesternmost bays of the principal (SE) elevation. The principal entrance to the structure is asymmetrically placed on the southeast elevation and is enframed by a round arch. Entry and paired window arches are highlighted by sandstone drip (cont.)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Information not available		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The building originally included a rear shed and barn which were removed circa 1925. The first story windows and entry were replaced by plate glass units enframed by aluminum surrounds, circa 1980.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The building is in good condition and is currently being renovated for retail use.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Documentation of this structure was undertaken for the Colorado Department of Highways on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration in compliance with Section 800.4 of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regulations. The future development of the Aurora Parkway will adversely affect 1214 - 1221 (cont.)		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Colorado Cultural Resource Survey #50V1005.5 (Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 1983). Commercial - Industrial Appraisals; City and County of Denver. Preliminary Case Report - Project FCU 040-4(6); Colfax Viaduct, Final Phase (Colorado Department of Highways for the Federal Highway Administration, 1983).		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Kathryn M. Kuranda, Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff for the Colorado Department of Highways		DATE March, 1984

Significance:

Wicks who operated the Empire Casket Company there until 1979.

Exterior Features of Note:

moldings. A granite and sandstone cornice divides the first and second stories and incorporates the bases of brick pilasters which rise to the building's cornice. Upper story windows are accented by brownstone sills and lintels. The building terminates in an elaborate corbelled-brick and pressed-tin cornice which extends to all elevations.

Other Information as Appropriate:

Wazee Street. Although the structure will be retained intact, the orientation of the building will be towards the Parkway posing an adverse visual effect.